United Nations S/2005/717

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 November 2005

Original: English

Identical notes verbales dated 14 November 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the President of the Security Council and, with reference to Security Council resolution 1636 (2005), has the honour to convey the following information on the work of the Syrian Judicial Commission as received from Judge Ghada Murad, Chairperson of the Commission:

The Commission initiated its work by studying the report of Mr. Detlev Mehlis, Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1595 (2005).

On 11 November 2005, the Commission sent a letter to Mr. Mehlis in which it expressed its wish to fully cooperate with the International Independent Commission. Furthermore, it extended an invitation to Mr. Mehlis to visit Syria for the implementation of this required cooperation pursuant to resolution 1636 (2005).

On 6 November 2005, the Commission sent a letter to Judge Said Merza, Prosecutor General of Lebanon, in which it requested that the Syrian Judicial Commission be provided with a copy of the investigations available to the Lebanese justice on the criminal action of assassinating the late Rafik Hariri. No reply has yet been received.

The Commission has received all information sent to it through fax or e-mail, reviewed its content and interrogated some persons who sent information useful for the investigation.

The Commission heard some Syrians whose names were mentioned in the report of Mr. Mehlis, and sent summons to others to hear them in the light of the content of the report of Mr. Mehlis.

The Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic avails himself of this opportunity to reconfirm the commitment of Syria to full cooperation with the International Independent Investigation Commission, and requests that this note be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

05-60438 (E) 151105